

Quote Analysis #2

Quote: “Now I know what it means when they say ‘to pull a Charlie Gordon.’ I’m ashamed” (“Flowers for Algernon” 17).

Speaker: Charlie Gordon

Context: Charlie has just come back from a party with some co-workers of his. Two of those co-workers, Frank and Joe, were deliberately tripping Charlie while he danced with a girl, and then they laughed at him. Charlie realized they were laughing at him.

Significance: This is an Aha! Moment for Charlie. He is realizing that Frank and Joe are not his friends, but instead use him so they can laugh at him. Charlie also learns that he is the butt of a joke when they say “to pull a Charlie Gordon”, meaning to do something stupid. This is also a turning point for Charlie. He is not only learning more about academics as he gets smarter; he also understands people’s behavior better.